



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 13, 2025

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,

Recognizing And Honoring Suki Kahaulelio For His Outstanding Community And Cultural Contributions

WHEREAS, Suki Kahaulelio, a proud Native Hawaiian, dedicated his life to the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture, language, and values—sharing the spirit of aloha and the strength of ‘ohana with all those he encountered; and

WHEREAS, Suki arrived in Sonoma County in the 1970s as part of the first wave of Polynesian student-athlete recruitment for the Santa Rosa Junior College, becoming not only a standout on the SRJC football team that won the 1977–78 State Championship, but also the glue that held together a generation of Polynesians who followed, including Les Goeas, Tom Ako, and Chauncey Ako, among others who laid the foundation for a new era of Polynesian life in Rohnert Park and Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, Suki was also a formidable presence in the rugby world, helping the Santa Rosa Rugby Club claim two National Championships, all while carrying the values of teamwork, humility, and service both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership, teaching, and example, Suki has embodied the principles of kuleana (responsibility), malama ‘āina (care for the land), and pono (righteousness), enriching the cultural fabric of Sonoma County while staying rooted in the wisdom of his kūpuna (ancestors); and

WHEREAS, his tireless work in preserving and promoting Hawaiian culture created space for connection, healing, and pride within both the Hawaiian diaspora and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Suki’s contributions reflect a deep reverence for ancestral knowledge and a powerful commitment to intergenerational learning, cultural sovereignty, and community empowerment. He was known for his generosity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to his community, qualities that continue to inspire and influence those who knew him

WHEREAS, Suki was a beloved kumu (teacher), mentor, and cultural bearer whose influence will resonate for generations, reminding us all of the enduring strength of indigenous wisdom and the beauty of living with aloha.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the people of Sonoma County, do hereby recognize and honor Suki Kahaulelio for his extraordinary contributions to cultural preservation, education, and community building, and extend our deepest gratitude for his lifelong dedication to uplifting and sharing the traditions of his ancestors.

Supervisors:

Hermosillo:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.